

REASON OR INSTINCT.

THE ENGINEERING FEAT OF A COM-
MON ANT.How It Secured a Spider's Captive—A
Curious Illustration of Insect
Ingenuity.

A Harrisburg letter says: "If ever any one thinks that an ant can't think and reason and form plans and carry them out, as well as any human being," said the Hon. James A. Swanson, the Hesitation naturalist, "just send him to me and I'll tell him what I saw one do the other day, and he can't help but be convinced." I was up on the hill in the Capitol grounds on one of the very warm afternoons a week or so ago, and lay down in the shade of a tree. Presently my attention was attracted by the struggles of a short but very fat caterpillar in a web that some designing spider had spun and which spread its gossamer meshes between two small shrubs, to the branches of each of which it was fastened by a number of those almost invisible guy ropes which the marvellous engineering instinct of the spider teaches it are necessary for the safe anchorage of its web. The bottom of the silken trap was about three inches from the ground, to which it was also made fast by guys. The caterpillar's struggles made the web dance and surge, and its anchorage was secure, and the struggling insect's efforts to break out of it were in vain. In a short time it resigned itself to its fate and lay motionless in the web.

along the branch where the cables were fastened, and then down to the net? Maybe so, but it seems to me that it was genuine reasoning and nothing short of it.

The ant went upward, hand over hand, tugging at the mass of web and weight of web-borne. Progress was slow, so slow that the ant had raised its burden less than a foot in ten minutes. Then all of a sudden the caterpillar seemed to awaken to the fact that a new danger threatened it, and it began to squirm and struggle again. This caused the cable to sway and to fro and the web to jump up and down in such a manner that the ant, to save itself from being pulled from the strand, let go its hold on the web and it fell back. This seemed to disconnect and disengage the ant for a moment. It ran up and down the strand as if it didn't know exactly what to do next. Suddenly, after a few seconds' pause on the strand for consideration, it went quickly up the line to the branch and disappeared. Two or three minutes passed, and I made up my mind that the ant had given its upsizing up a bad job, when it appeared once more on the cable and began to descend. But the most wonderful thing of all was that another ant, as big and strong as the first one, made its appearance on the other cable and ran down it to the web. The first ant had simply gone back to its nest, informed a companion of the situation and got him to come and help with the job. And the two ants soon finished it. They both fastened their hind feet on the web, and working in unison, the one pulling it taut while the other tugged away on the other, in less than half an hour they had drawn the web and the worm to the branch, when it was an easy job for them to drag it to the nest."

ROBERT GARRETT.

President of the B. & O. Railroad Company, to Whom a Successor Has Been Designated.

Robert Garrett, of Baltimore, still nominally president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, by recent commercial transactions of vast magnitude virtually, what he will soon be actually.

Mr. Garrett inherited his wealth and position from his father, who died about three years ago. His fortune at that time was variously estimated at from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Though resembling his father in some peculiarities of personal appearance, it seems that Robert Garrett figures more

BEHOLD THIS RUIN.

THE VERY STRANGE HISTORY OF A SKULL.

Curious Facts in the History of the Life of Lord Altham—A Doctor's Story.

A Columbia (Pa.) special says: There is in the possession of a physician of this county a portion of a woman's skull which was ploughed up in a field near the foot of the Chickasaw this many years ago. The owner asserts that it is the skull of a woman who was the daughter of one of the early settlers in Lancaster county, and who, but for the sudden and untimely death of her lover, would have become the wife of James Annesley (Lord Altham), who succeeded to the title and estates in the County Wexford, Ireland, in 1757. The story that the crumpling skull recalls a pathetic romance of the olden time.

Among the passengers on board of a vessel that landed in Philadelphia in the early summer of 1728 was a boy who said his name was James Annesley. He was thirteen years old, and said he had been placed on the ship at Dublin by his uncle, who had deserted him. The boy's passage had not been paid, and as his story was not believed by the captain of the vessel he was sold, after the custom of that day, to serve his purchaser until his services had satisfied the amount paid for him to the ship's captain. Unfortunate of that kind were called "redemptioners," and as the rich agricultural lands in Lancaster and adjoining counties were then being taken up by settlers and farm hands who were seafaring men, the vessel's crew and the owners had difficulty in finding land fit for cultivation. They had fastened their hind feet on the web, and working in unison, the one pulling it taut while the other tugged away on the other, in less than half an hour they had drawn the web and the worm to the branch, when it was an easy job for them to drag it to the nest."

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handsomely as a speaker than as a saver, At any rate, judging from recent events, his business methods have not proved salutary to the splendid property which went into his control on the death of his distinguished parent.

He will shortly have the opportunity to enjoy without obtrusive business obligations the elegant leisure for which he is said to be best adapted. Probably he is far from being a poor man, and his expensive tastes will continue to be gratified.

In the judgment of Mr. Garrett, this is a matter of supreme importance. His every garment must be in the latest fashion and cut with the greatest precision to the lines of his figure. A writer on this momentous subject says that Mr. Garrett has nearly one hundred suits of clothes. His collection of hats, caps, and underlinings is, according to the same veracious contemporary above quoted, numberless. In the matter of hats, it is stated that visitors, upon entering his house, have frequently remarked the elegant leisure for which he is said to be best adapted. Probably he is far from being a poor man, and his expensive tastes will continue to be gratified.

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Lost Both Gun and Helms.

About two days ago Mr. Henry T. Tall, of Kingston, having been an engineer by parties entering his water-melon-patch and stealing his melons, concluded that he would treat the thieves to a load of shot. In order to carry out his designs in this respect he took his London twist-double-barrel shotgun to the patch and set her in position to pepper the melon-cutter. After arranging her to his taste he left the shooting-iron for the night, but expected ere morning to hear a report from it. He, however, was doomed to disappointment in this line. Next morning he went out early to see if any more depredations had been committed on his melon-patch and place of it. On his disappearance he started in, but a feeble statement, for when I saw it again it had made its way out on the branch to one of the long strands to which the spider's web now hung suspended, and without an instant's hesitation proceeded at once to descend the cable. It came down the gossamer thread deliberately, head first, and with as much ease as if the cable of the spider's web were its natural line of travel. When the ant came to the net it turned about on the strand, fastened its powerful legs among the outer threads of the mesh, and then began to pull itself upward on the cable with its stout fore-feet.

The ant's plan was now revealed. Its nest, of course, was somewhere in the oak tree, probably at the crotch of the first branch. If it could by any possibility take the caterpillar from the web on the ground the ant would have dragged it to the tree and up the trunk to its nest. But as that was not possible, and as it had suddenly discovered the strands connecting the net with the branch, the ant had seen at once that they could be utilized and the caterpillar drawn by them up into the tree. The ant's instinct told the ant that before this could be done the web must be cut loose from its anchorages to the shrubs and the ground. Was it instinct that suggested the plan itself to the ant and sent it hurrying in all haste to the tree from the web it had set afloat in the air, and up the tree, and

news unbalanced the mind of the unfortunate girl and she died a hopeless maniac three years later. She was buried on her father's farm, at the spot where the skull was found 125 years earlier. The old German sold the farm after his daughter's death, he being a widower, and went away, no one knew whither. He left his nameless grandchild a care upon strangers. The boy grew to manhood, and was killed in one of the frontier Indian fights before the Revolutionary war. The old English novels of Redick Rick and Florence Macarty were based on the story of young Lord Altham's life.

A REMARKABLE CAREER.

Chaplin, Once the Queen of the Ute Indians, Now a Hunted Squaw of Colorado's Hand.

(Denver Republican)

Among the squaws accompanying Coloway in his peripatetic journeys, about the White River country is Chipeta, the wife of the lamented Ouray, the late chief of the Ute Nation. The career of this woman is beyond anything yet written; even Fenimore Cooper, in his description of the romance of aboriginal life, falls short of the tale of Ouray and Chipeta.

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